

BEFORE THE MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Gregory Scott
Joel Jacobs
Marshall Johnson
Edward Garvey
LeRoy Koppendraye

Chair
Commissioner
Commissioner
Commissioner
Commissioner

In the Matter of **Independent Emergency
Services Limited Liability Company's**
Request for Approval of Certified Actual
Costs Associated with the **Itasca County** 911
Emergency Telephone Services System

ISSUE DATE: August 8, 2000

DOCKET NO. **P-5270/ES-99-1703**

ORDER APPROVING CERTIFIED 911
SYSTEM COSTS

BACKGROUND

On October 4, 1983, the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (the Commission) approved Itasca County's final plan for the establishment of a 911 Emergency Telephone Services System.

On September 24, 1985, the Commission approved the actual costs GTE Telephone Company (formerly known as Continental and Contel) incurred for placing a portion of a 911 Emergency Telephone Service for the Warba exchange in Itasca County.

On February 5, 1986, the Commission approved the actual costs People's Telephone Company incurred for placing a portion of a 911 Emergency Telephone Service in Itasca County.

On March 11, 1986, the Commission approved the initial costs U S West Communications (formerly Northwestern Bell) incurred for placing a portion of a 911 Emergency Service in Itasca County.

On March 11, 1986, the Commission approved the actual costs Northern Telephone Company incurred for placing a portion of a 911 Emergency Telephone Service in Itasca County.

On October 21, 1987, the Commission approved the actual costs GTE Telephone Company incurred for placing a portion of a 911 Emergency Service in the Bear River exchange in Itasca County.

On November 25, 1987, the Commission approved the additional costs U S West Communications incurred for placing a portion of a 911 Emergency Telephone Service in the Bear River exchange in Itasca County.

On March 16, 1988, the Commission approved the actual costs Paul Bunyan Telephone Company incurred for placing a portion of a 911 Emergency Telephone Service into service in

Itasca County.

On March 16, 1988, the Commission approved the actual costs U S West Communications incurred for the provision of 911 Emergency Service in the Big Fork/Effie exchange in Itasca County.

On June 7, 1989, the Commission approved the actual costs Deer River Telephone Company incurred for placing a portion of a 911 Emergency Telephone Service in Itasca County.

On January 25, 1991, the Commission granted Minnesota Independent Interexchange Corporation (MIIC), a subsidiary of MN Equal Access Network Services, Inc (MEANS), a Certificate of Authority to provide telecommunications service within the State of Minnesota. MIIC is an interexchange company owned by MEANS. MEANS is owned by 62 participating independent local exchange companies.

On February 9, 1996, the Commission granted Independent Emergency Services Limited Liability Company (IES, LLC) a Certificate of Authority to provide certain telephone services such as Enhanced 911(E911), Private Switch/Automatic Location Identification, Trunking Services, E911 Tandem Services, and data management services throughout the State of Minnesota, excluding the seven-county metropolitan area: Anoka, Hennepin, Ramsey, Washington, Carver, Scott and Dakota.

On August 26, 1997, Itasca County contracted for 911 Enhancement Service with IES, LLC.

Between January 8, 1998 and January 28, 1998, IES, LLC placed an order with MIIC to provide interexchange DS-0 (one voice channel) level transport between points within the State of Minnesota where MIIC's facilities are available. The circuits for which MIIC provides the interexchange transport are used for Automatic Number Identification (ANI), Automatic Location Identification (ALI), or Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) connectivity in the Itasca County 911 system.

On April 22, 1998, IES, LLC placed tandem based Automatic Number Identification (ANI) service in the Itasca County 911 system and had MIIC install two interexchange data circuits to support that system. Hutchinson Telephone Company placed it's portion of Automatic Location Identification (ALI) service. IES, LLC maintains the database for ALI while Hutchinson provides data circuit transport which carries that ALI record along with Automatic Number Identification (ALI) from the database that resides in their company central office.

On December 30, 1998, the Commission approved the actual costs IES, LLC incurred for placing ANI service in Itasca County.

On April 12, 1999, the Commission approved the actual costs MIIC incurred for ANI Support system costs.

On September 21, 1999, the Commission approved the actual costs Hutchinson Telephone Company incurred for their portion of ALI service.

CURRENT FILING

Between April 22, 1998 and August 5, 1999, Independent Emergency Services Limited Liability Company (the Company) installed Automatic Location Identification (ALI) service in the Itasca County 911 Emergency system.

On October 7, 1999, the Company certified the actual costs it incurred for their portion of ALI service.

Independent Emergency Services Limited Liability Company is now requesting Commission approval of the ALI system costs. Commission approval is necessary before the Department of Administration (DOA) will make payments for 911 system costs.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

Minn. Stat. Section 403.11, subd. 3 states:

Subd. 3 (METHOD OF PAYMENT; CERTIFICATION.) A public utility incurring reimbursable costs under subdivision 1 or 2 shall certify those costs to the commissioner of administration. The certification shall be in a form as prescribed by the commissioner after consultation with the public utilities commission. If the commissioner and the commission approve the certified costs as appropriate and accurate, the commissioner shall pay the certified costs from money appropriated for that purpose within 90 days following receipt by the commissioner of the certified costs. The commissioner of administration shall estimate the amount required to reimburse public utilities for the state's obligations under subdivisions 1 and 2 of this section and the governor shall include the estimated amount in the biennial budget request.

Independent Emergency Services Limited Liability Company has certified, in writing, that the elements of 911 services and associated costs indicated on Attachment A reflect only charges for services actually rendered in the direct provision of 911 service in Itasca County.

All charges listed on Attachment A are in accordance with the Company's tariffs.

The Commission finds that the costs for 911 Emergency Telephone Service in Itasca County which have been certified by the Company are appropriate and accurate.

Policy References:

Minn. Stat. Section 403.11 System Costs

Minn. Rules, pt. 1215.1400 Funding Eligibility/Payment of Recurring Costs

ORDER

1. The costs identified on Attachment A accompanying this Order are approved as appropriate and accurate pursuant to the Commission's March 21, 2000 Standing Order Designating Filings Requesting Certification of 911 Costs As Filings Subject to Approval Under Minn. Stat. § 216A.03, Subd. 7, Docket No. P-999/CI-99-1723.
2. This Order does not approve payment of any 911 system costs. Any possible future approval of payment for system costs shall be granted by the Commissioner of the Department of Administration in accordance with the provisions of Minn. Stat. Section 403.11.
3. This Order shall become effective immediately.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION

Burl W. Haar
Executive Secretary

(S E A L)

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STATE OF MINNESOTA)
)SS
COUNTY OF RAMSEY)

AFFIDAVIT OF SERVICE

I _____, being first duly sworn, deposes and says:

That on the ____ day of _____, 2000 (s)he served the attached **Order Approving Certified 911 System Costs for Itasca County 911 Emergency Telephone Service Docket No. P-5270/ES-99-1703.**

XX By depositing in the United States Mail at the City of St. Paul, a true and correct copy thereof, properly enveloped with postage prepaid

XX By personal service

XX By inter-office mail

to all persons at the addresses indicated below or on the attached list:

MR BILL SCHNELLMAN
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Subscribed and sworn to before me, _____

a notary public, this ____ day of

_____, 2000.

Notary Public